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ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

JUN 27 1927

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SERIES 3. VOL. I

JUNE 14, 1927

NO. 11

FLORICULTURE

Mid-June is a season of blossom in great plenty on shrub, tree and vine. In the Shrub Garden, on Bussey Hill and along Centre Street Path, shrubs in rich variety are in full flower. At the base of Hemlock Hill the evergreen Rhododendrons are at their best, and just beyond the Kalmias are bursting into bloom. Here, there and everywhere blossoms shine forth and visitors may be assured of a feast of color no matter at which gate they enter the Arboretum.

Rhododendron calendulaceum. On the western slopes of Bussey Hill and amid the Oaks and Hickories broad masses or isolated groups of the Flame Azalea are now ablaze. This, the most gorgeous American Azalea, though not found wild north of Pennsylvania, is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts. It is a shrub, from 6 to 10 feet (sometimes as much as 15 feet) in height and breadth, which is easily accommodated in ordinary lime-free garden soil and in June produces clusters of flowers, rich yellow through shades of orange and red to orange-scarlet. The pleasantly fragrant flower has a slender tube, wide-spreading lobes and outthrust stamens, all uniform in color. The Flame Azalea has been extensively planted in the Arboretum, where at this season it forms arresting patches or broad thickets of blossoms. Being a good species it comes true from seeds, which is the best means of propagating it.

Spiraea trichocarpa. In the Shrub Garden and on Centre Street Path this Spiraea is blossoming freely. A shrub of dome-shaped habit some 4 to 6 feet tall and more in diameter, it has arching, angular stems furnished with prominent buds and elliptic-lanceolate leaves, dark green above, paler below, smooth and toothed at the apex only. The flowers are borne in 3- to 4-inch broad, compound clusters at the ends of short, leafy branchlets transforming the shoot into arching plumes and the whole bush into a fountain of white. Native of Korea, it is one of the Arboretum's introductions. Seeds were received in 1917 and the plants raised have proved perfectly hardy. It is a valuable addition to a useful group of shrubs.

Spiraea nipponica, better known as *S. bracteata*, is a shapely bush with the usual fountain-like habit of its tribe. The flowers, produced

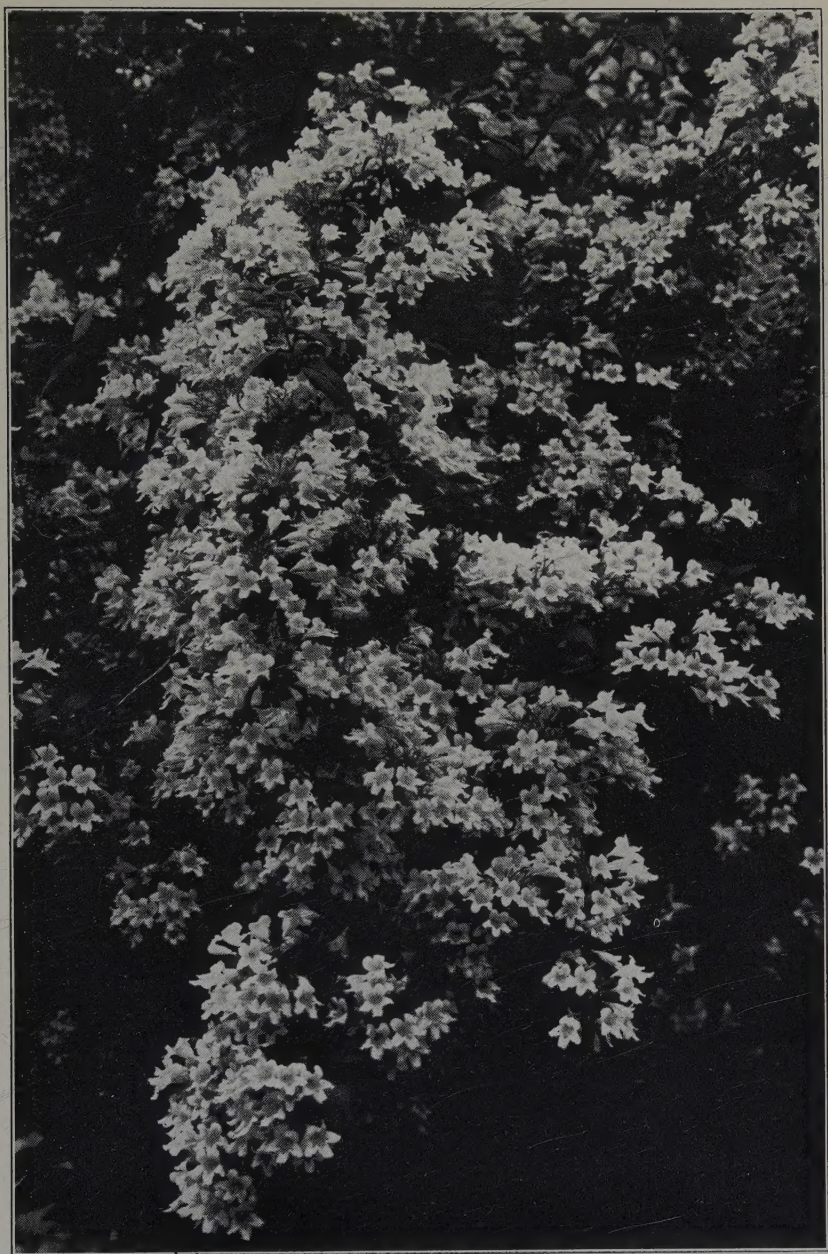
in neat rounded clusters at the ends of short, leafy, erect branchlets, crowd the stems for several feet of their length. The umbels are dense and simple and rather prim in appearance. Native of Japan, this is the best *Spiraea* of its class from that country.

Spiraea Henryi. As the two *Spiraeas* mentioned above pass out of blossom the flowers of *S. Henryi* commence to open. This is a vigorous growing species, native of the mountains of Central China from whence Wilson introduced it some twenty-five years ago. It makes a bush some 8 to 12 feet tall and has ascending-spreading stems, the outer ones arching over, clad with blossoms for 3 to 6 feet of their length. The leaves are gray and hoary on the under surface, deep green above with prominently impressed veins and are coarsely toothed in the apical part. The flowers are white, produced in compound clusters each from 3 to 5 inches broad. It is a perfectly hardy, vigorous growing shrub and like the two mentioned above must be included among the best half-dozen species of *Spiraea* in cultivation.

Scotch Roses. In the Shrub Garden several varieties of Scotch or Burnet Roses are now in full bloom. These are much-branched plants which sucker freely from the roots and form rounded billowy masses from 2 to 3 feet tall and 6 or more feet through. They have the old fashioned Rose fragrance, are exceedingly floriferous, and are very pleasing and accommodating shrubs. Of the semi-double named sorts flowering in the Shrub Garden attention may be drawn to Dominie Sampson with pink, King of the Scots with rose-pink, and Iris with cream-white flowers. These old-fashioned Scotch Roses are forms or hybrids of *Rosa spinosissima*. At one time a great many sorts were grown in gardens but the Hybrid Perpetual, Hybrid Tea and Rambler Roses have driven them out to the loss of those who love the simple and beautiful among Roses. The typical *R. spinosissima* is taller and more lax in habit and has single pink or white blossoms, each about an inch and a half across, which are followed by black fruits. There are many natural varieties of this Rose, the best of which is that of the Altai Mountains illustrated in Bulletin No. 9 of this year.

Rosa Harisonii. So far as the experience of the Arboretum goes this is the best of the hardy, double-flowered yellow Roses. Originated about 1830 by crossing the Austrian Briar (*R. foetida*, better known as *R. lutea*), with the Scotch Rose (*R. spinosissima*), it soon became a great favorite and was carried far and wide in this country. It is a feature of many New England gardens as well as of those in the St. Lawrence Valley and west around Niagara and Lake Michigan. Perfectly hardy, each season it covers itself with a wealth of rich yellow blossoms. In the Arboretum it is an eminently satisfactory Rose whereas the Persian Yellow Rose (*R. foetida persiana*) and the double yellow Chinese *R. xanthina* do very poorly.

Magnolia Watsonii is now in full blossom on the Centre Street Path and attracts attention unto itself by the heavy, spicy odor emitted by its blossoms. The flower is more or less saucer-shape, from 5 to 6 inches across, with sepals, pinkish on the outside, and cream-colored



Beauty-bush, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*

petals, in the centre of which is seated a prominent mass of reddish pink anthers, each on a blood-red filament. It produces flowers after its leaves are fully grown. The origin of this *Magnolia* is not known. It was sent to Paris from Japan in 1889. Some authorities consider it a hybrid between *M. obovata*, better known as *M. hypoleuca*, and *M. parviflora*. In Japan it forms a small tree, sometimes 20 feet tall, with a broad crown. In the Arboretum it is a straggling bush, of no particular shape, but free-flowering and quite hardy.

Kolkwitzia amabilis is now in blossom on Bussey Hill, in the Shrub Garden and on the left-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road, where a young and vigorous plant is flowering for the first time. Every succeeding year emphasizes the garden value of this plant for which the descriptive title of Beauty-bush has been aptly coined. It is a twiggy shrub, growing from 6 to 8 feet tall, with the inner stems erect or ascending and the outer ones arching to the ground, the whole plant forming a dome-shaped mass. The flowers are produced along the whole length of the branches in clusters at the ends of short, leafy shoots. They are tubular with a gaping mouth, deep pink without, stained with yellow-brown on the lower throat and lip. The pedicels and ovary are clad with spreading, white, bristle-like hairs which add to the attractiveness of the inflorescence. The graceful habit of the plant, its free-flowering qualities and pleasing color, combined with perfect hardiness, make this one of the most beautiful, as well as most useful, shrubs that China has given to the gardens of this country. It was introduced into cultivation by Wilson in 1902 and has been growing in the Arboretum since 1907. The parent plant on Bussey Hill has been much mutilated for propagating purposes, and from it, either by seeds or cuttings, has originated the whole stock of this plant in America. Related to the *Weigelia*s or *Diervilla*s, it is far more beautiful than any of them and is destined to become one of the most familiar plants in our gardens.

Lonicera Korolkowii floribunda. In the Shrub Garden this floriferous variety of the Persian Honeysuckle is now a thing of great beauty. Of twiggy habit, with a mass of gray foliage, and pink, gaping flowers, it looks from a distance like a cloud of mist shot with pink. A number of other Honeysuckles, including *L. Maackii* and its variety *podocarpa*, are in bloom. With pure white, gaping blossoms standing erect along the branchlets, *L. Maackii* is an attractive shrub. The type has the larger flowers but the variety is most handsome in fruit, which ripens late and remains in good condition until early December. Both are vigorous growing, tree-like, scarlet-fruited shrubs, perfectly hardy and reliable. On the trellis in the Shrub Garden the hybrid *L. prolifera* is opening its clustered heads of orange-yellow flowers. Like all its group it suffers from the attacks of aphids, and must be frequently sprayed with some nicotine solution. These Climbing Honeysuckles, of which *L. prolifera* is a type, are free growing, useful vines which not only produce flowers in quantity but also heads of scarlet or orange-scarlet translucent berries.

E. H. W.